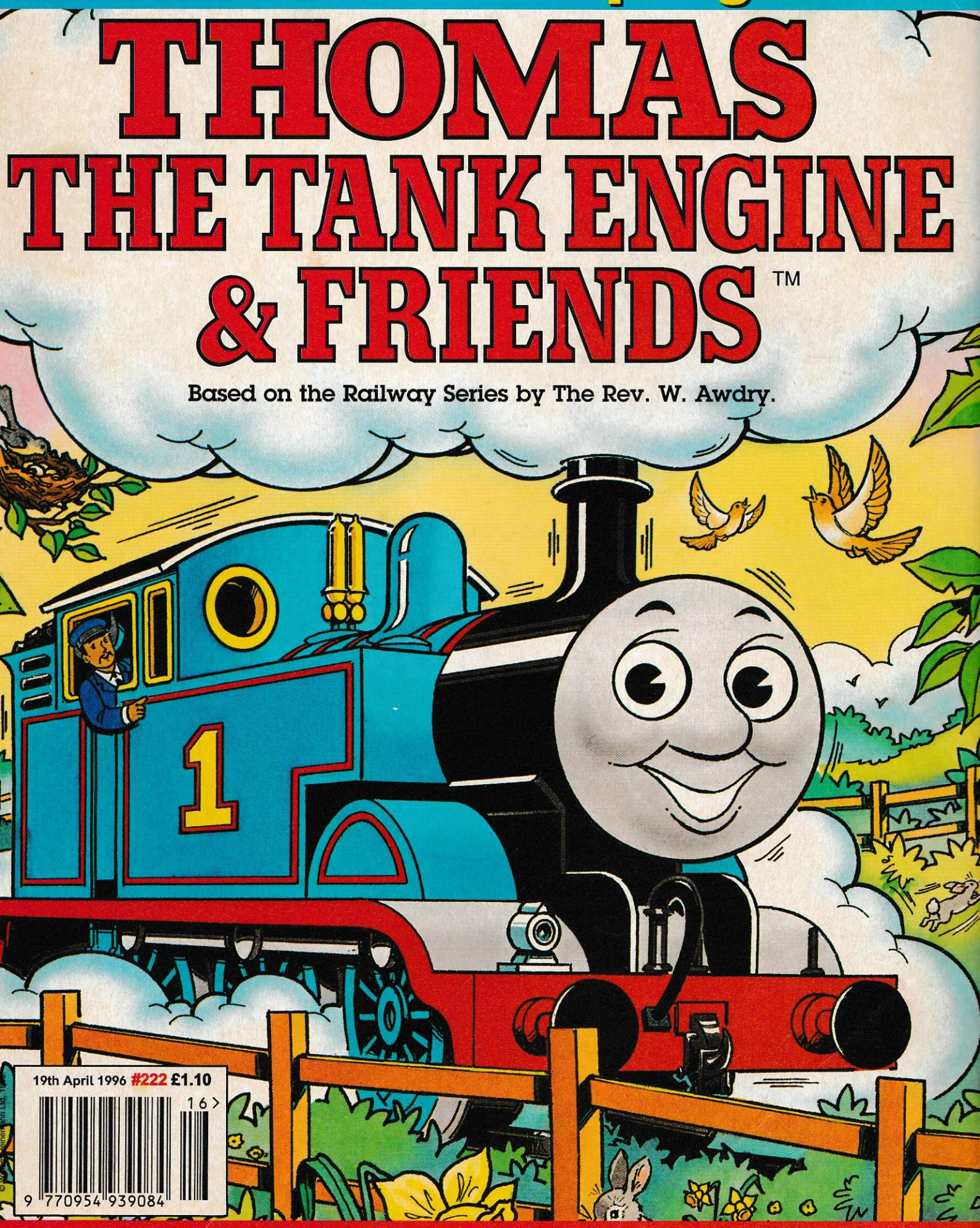
MARVEL COMICS

Win a Thomas play tent!

THOMAS THE TANK ENGINE & FRIENDS™

Based on the Railway Series by The Rev. W. Awdry.



19th April 1996 #222 £1.10

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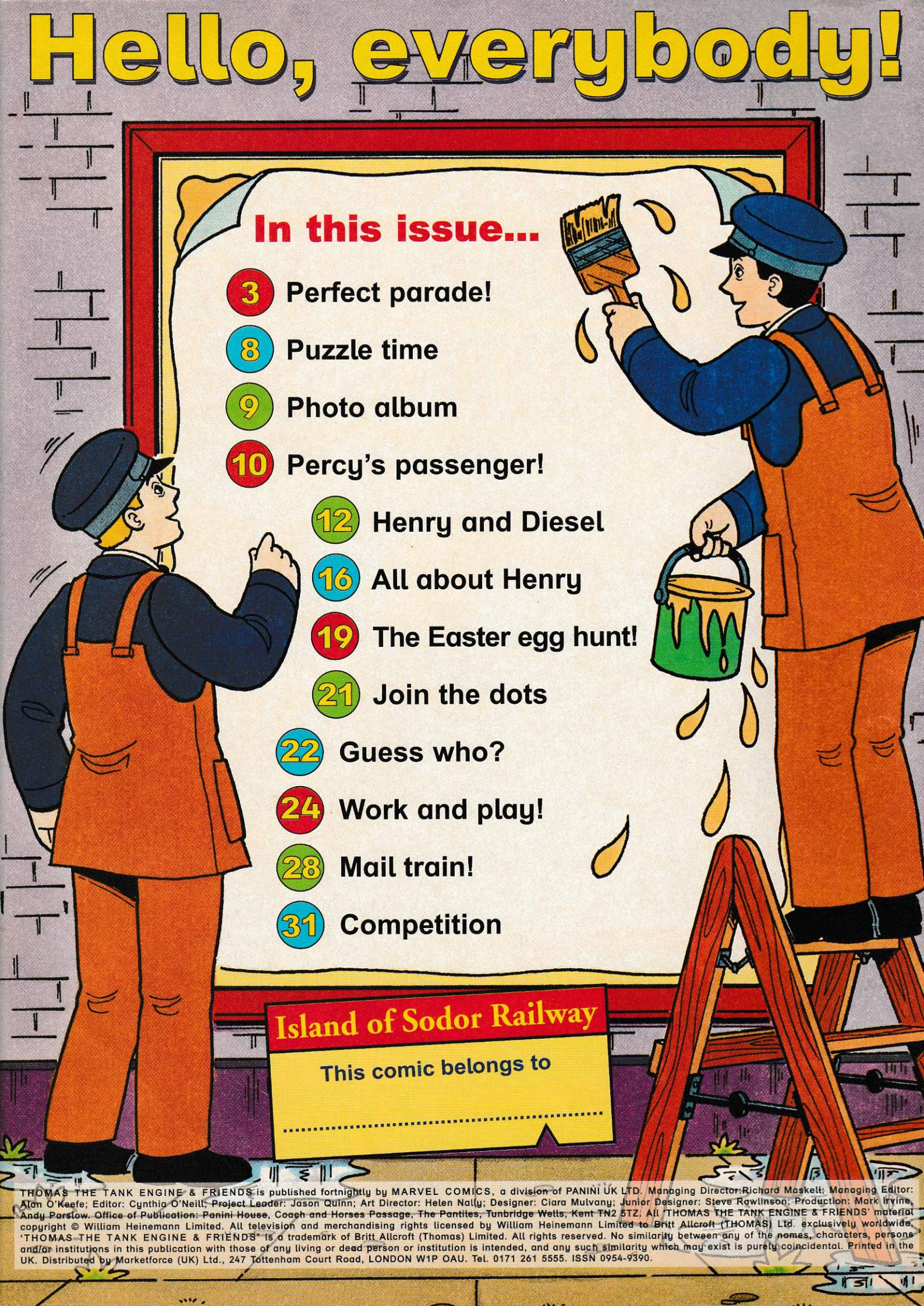
All about Henry! 5 brand new stories!

Hello, everybody!



In this issue...

3 Perfect parade!

8 Puzzle time

9 Photo album

10 Percy's passenger!

12 Henry and Diesel

16 All about Henry

19 The Easter egg hunt!

21 Join the dots

22 Guess who?

24 Work and play!

28 Mail train!

31 Competition

Island of Sodor Railway

This comic belongs to

.....

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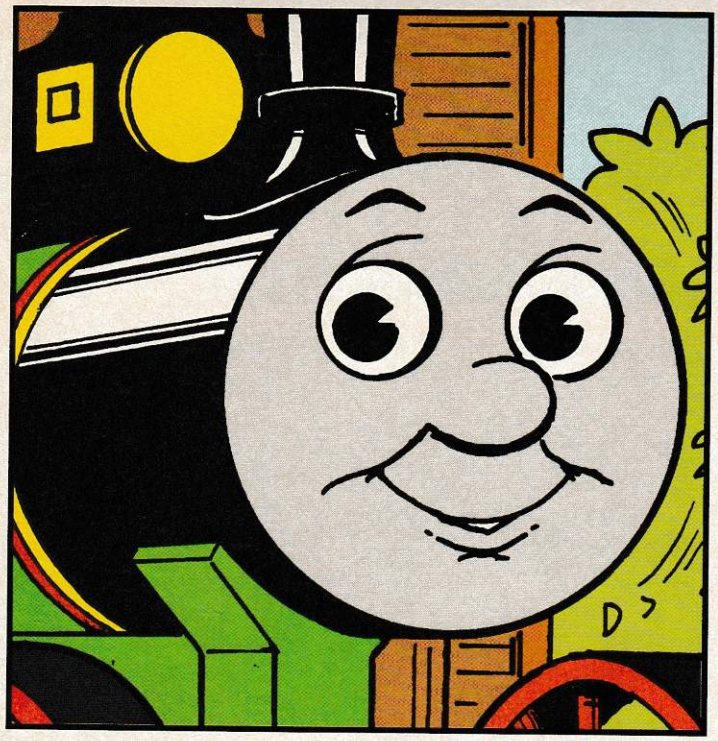
storytime

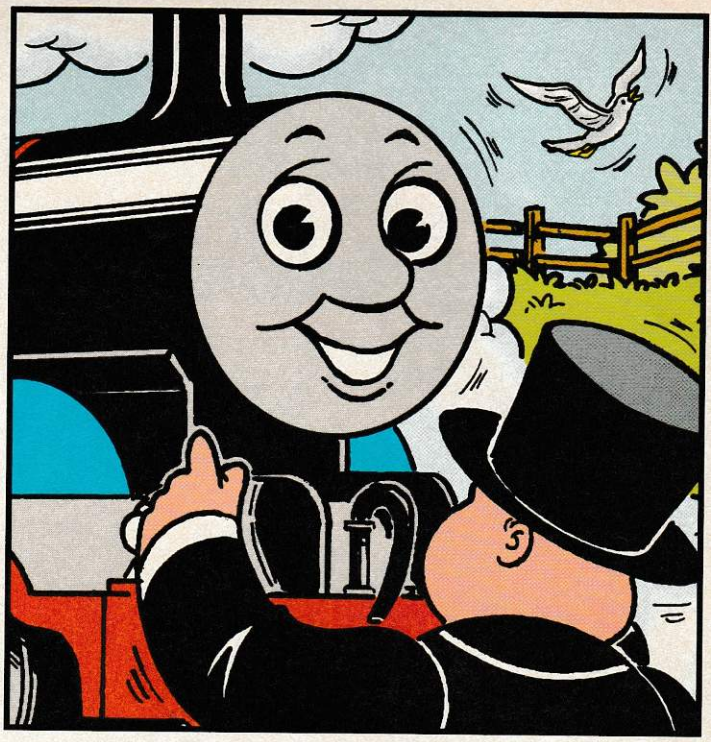
Perfect parade!

1. One morning, as Thomas pulled up at a signal near Trevor's shed in the Vicarage Orchard, he found him being polished by his driver, Jem Cole. Trevor's paint sparkled.

2. "Hello, Thomas!" Trevor cried. Then Thomas noticed the Vicar and some children, decorating a cart with daffodils and ribbons. In the middle was a huge Easter egg.



3. The egg was made of bright card. Inside was a model chick. "There's an Easter Parade in Wellsworth this weekend," called Trevor, proudly. "I'm going to pull the cart in it!"



4. When Thomas returned to the Main Station, the Fat Controller had more news. "You're to take everyone to the Easter Parade on Saturday," he said, "including Lady Hatt!"

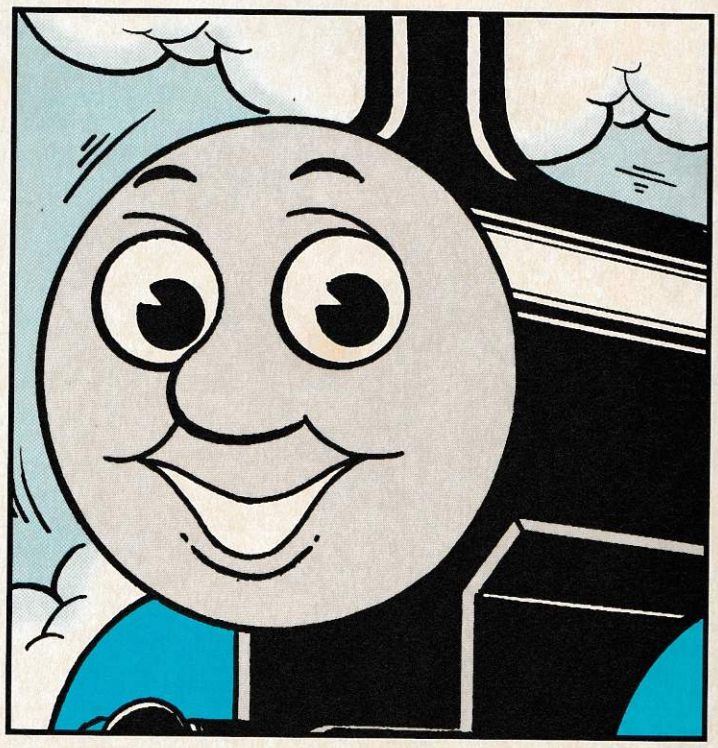
5. Saturday morning was windy. When Lady Hatt arrived at the station, she wore a pretty Easter bonnet. "I made this specially for the parade," Lady Hatt told the driver.

6. Suddenly, a gust of wind blew the bonnet away. It sailed across the yard and landed on a coal truck that Diesel was about to move. The drivers called out to him to stop.

7. Diesel didn't hear them in time. He moved off, pulling the truck so hard that it rocked and its heavy load of coal slipped. Lady Hatt's bonnet was buried under the coal!

8. Lady Hatt was very upset when Diesel's driver brought the bonnet back. "The lace is all torn and the flowers are dirty," she gasped. "What can I do now?"

9. "This bonnet took me weeks to make," she went on, "and the parade is due to start soon!" "The only other hat at the station is my old one," replied the Fat Controller.



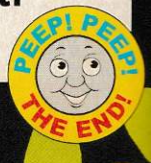
10. "What use is that to me?" asked Lady Hatt. Thomas remembered the daffodils and ribbons that the children had used to decorate the cart. He had an idea and told his driver.

11. When Lady Hatt heard Thomas's idea, she went to the shops. She bought some flowers, some little chocolate eggs in shiny paper and some toy chicks.

12. She stuck the eggs and flowers on the Fat Controller's old hat, then glued twigs around the eggs to look like a nest of chicks hatching out in time for Easter!

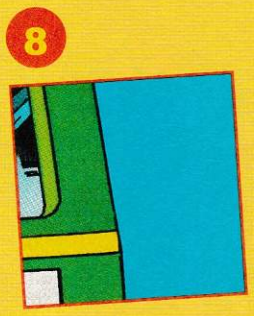
13. Then Thomas set off with Lady Hatt for the Easter Parade. At Wellsworth Station, Trevor led the parade. The wind had dropped and the ladies wore fine Easter bonnets.

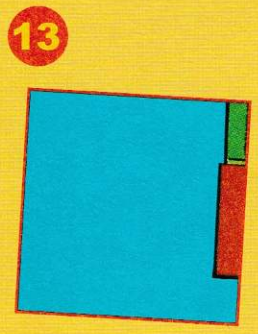
14. Everyone agreed Lady Hatt's was the most unusual. "Thank you for your help," she told Thomas. "I think your bonnet's **eggcellent!**" he smiled back.

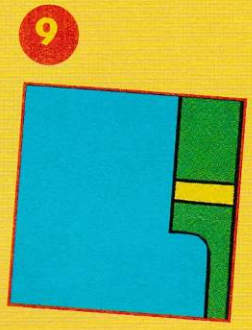


Puzzle time!

Get your pencil ready and copy each of the numbered boxes into the grid. When you have finished you will have drawn a picture of an engine. Can you guess who it is?







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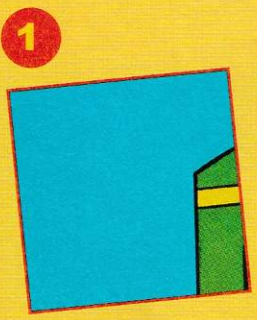
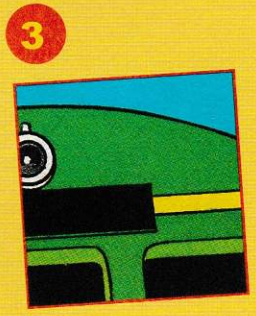
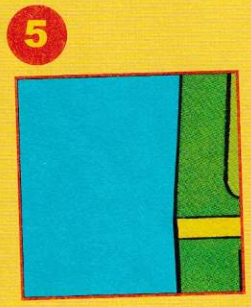
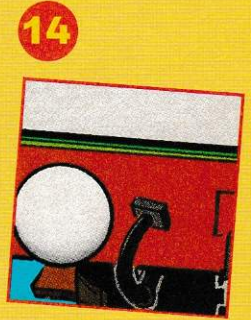
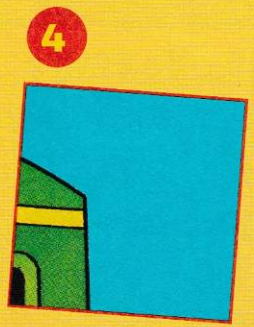
13	14	15	16

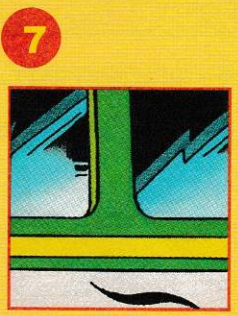


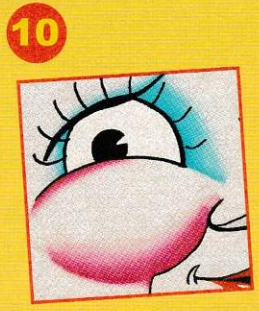


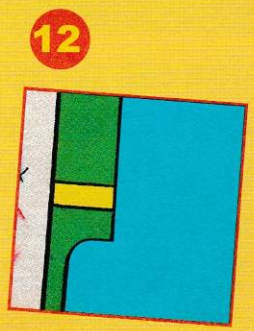


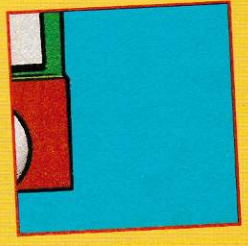












THOMAS THE TANK ENGINE & FRIENDS

Photo album

Fat Controller

storytime

Percy's passenger!

Daisy had to take some passengers to the Island of Sodor Wildlife Park. When she arrived at the station near the park gates, she saw animals from all over the world. There were bears, kangaroos, giraffes, elephants and many more.

Suddenly a lion roared loudly and startled Daisy. She thought it looked very fierce.

"Don't worry," her driver called out. "The animals can't get out!"

Later, Daisy excitedly told the other engines about her visit.

Then Percy was sent to collect something from a factory. When he returned to the Main Station yard with his special cargo, Daisy was still talking about the wild animals, especially the lion with the fierce roar.

"Pah! They don't scare me!" puffed Percy. "There's a lion in one of my trucks!"

Daisy was shocked.

"It's true," said Thomas, who knew what job Percy had been sent to do.

Daisy did not understand. How could a wild lion be at the station and not safely in the Wildlife Park? She whistled loudly to warn the Fat Controller.

"Look out, sir!" cried Daisy. "There's a lion in Percy's truck! It must have escaped!"

To Daisy's surprise, the Fat Controller went to see.

"Oh, no, it hasn't," he smiled. "I sent Percy to go and collect it for me."

"But, but..." stammered Daisy. "Sir, what if the lion got out into the station? It would scare all the passengers!"

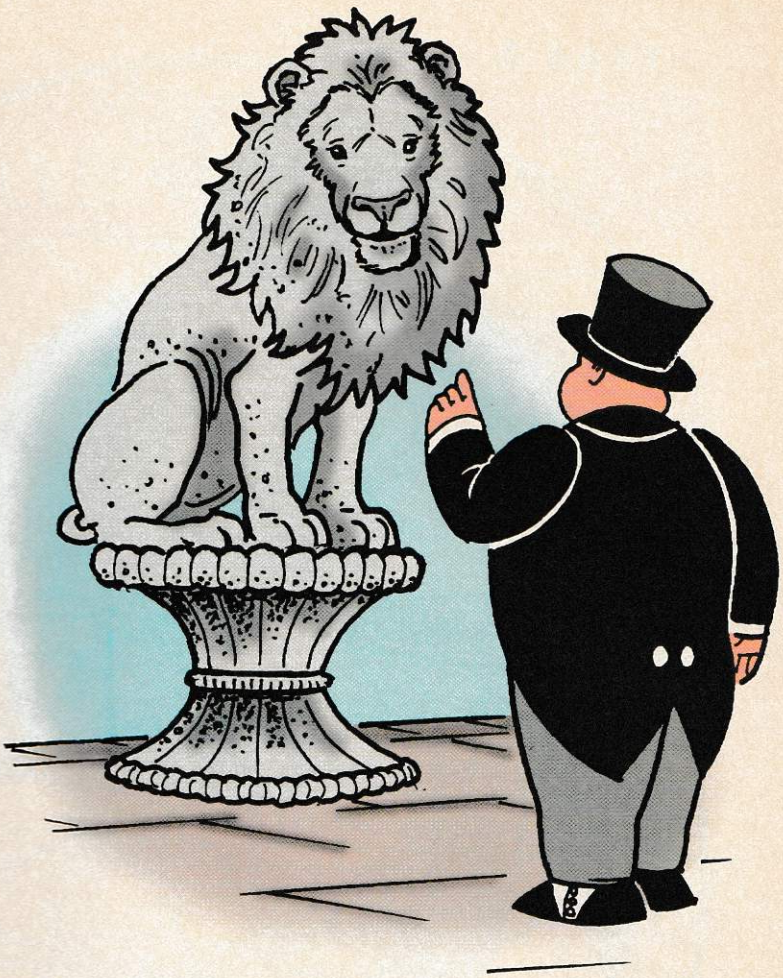
"Don't worry, Daisy," the Fat Controller said, kindly. "This lion can't run very fast at all!"

When a crane truck was fetched to lift up the lion, the mystery was solved!

"It's made of stone!" Daisy exclaimed. "It's not a real lion at all!"

"I never said it was," teased Percy, cheekily.

"It's a life-sized model, made at a factory," added Thomas.



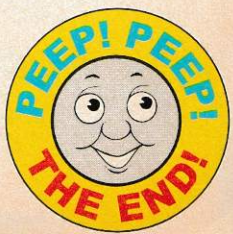
A lorry arrived and the stone lion was loaded on to its back, then driven away.

"The lion statue will stand in my back garden," the Fat Controller told Daisy. "It's a present for Lady Hatt."

Daisy felt very silly for being scared. Percy and Thomas laughed and laughed. At first Daisy sulked. Then she joined in the laughter.

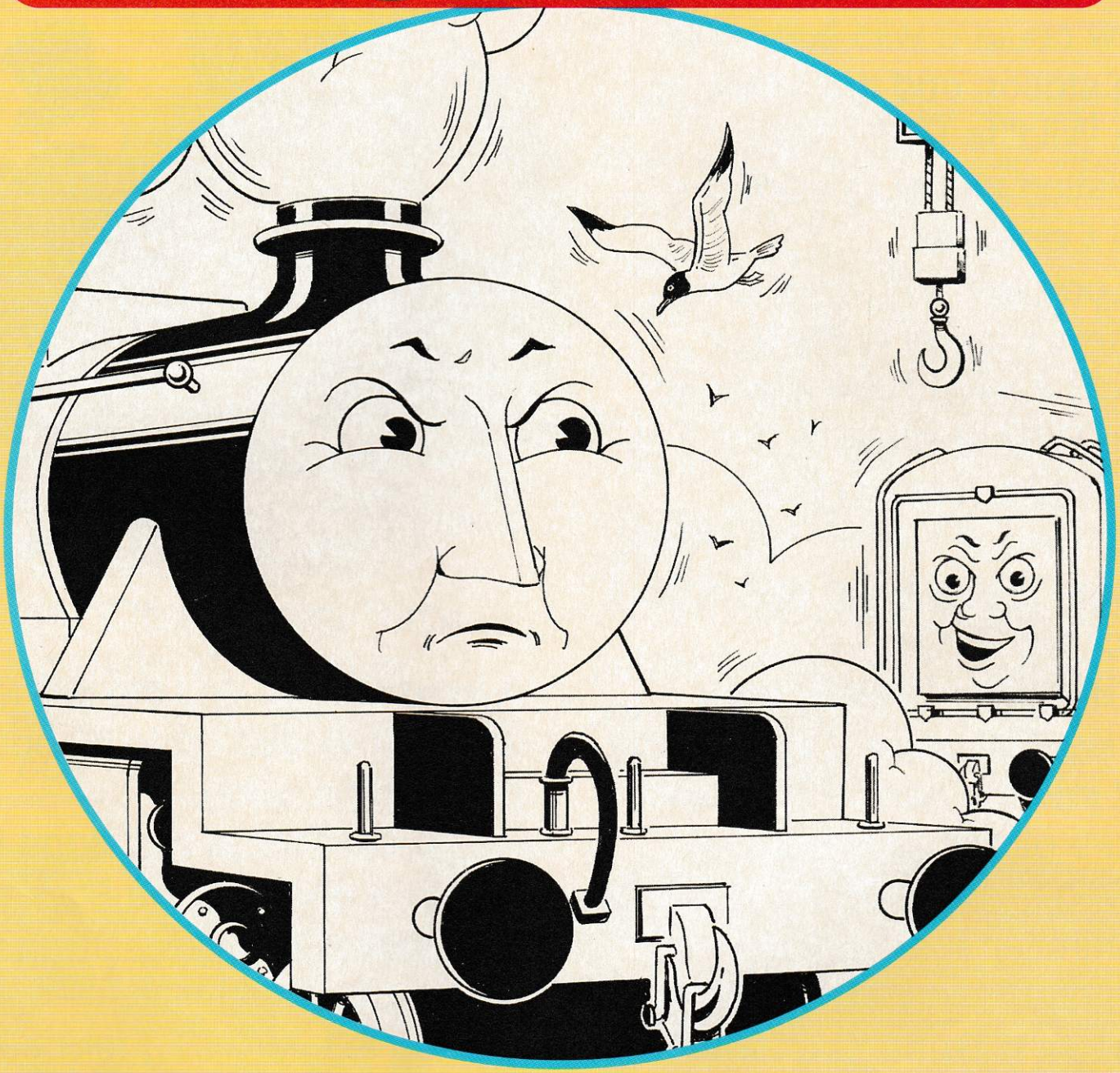
"It was a clever trick," she agreed, at last.

"That's why we're all roaring with laughter!" joked Thomas.



A read & colour story

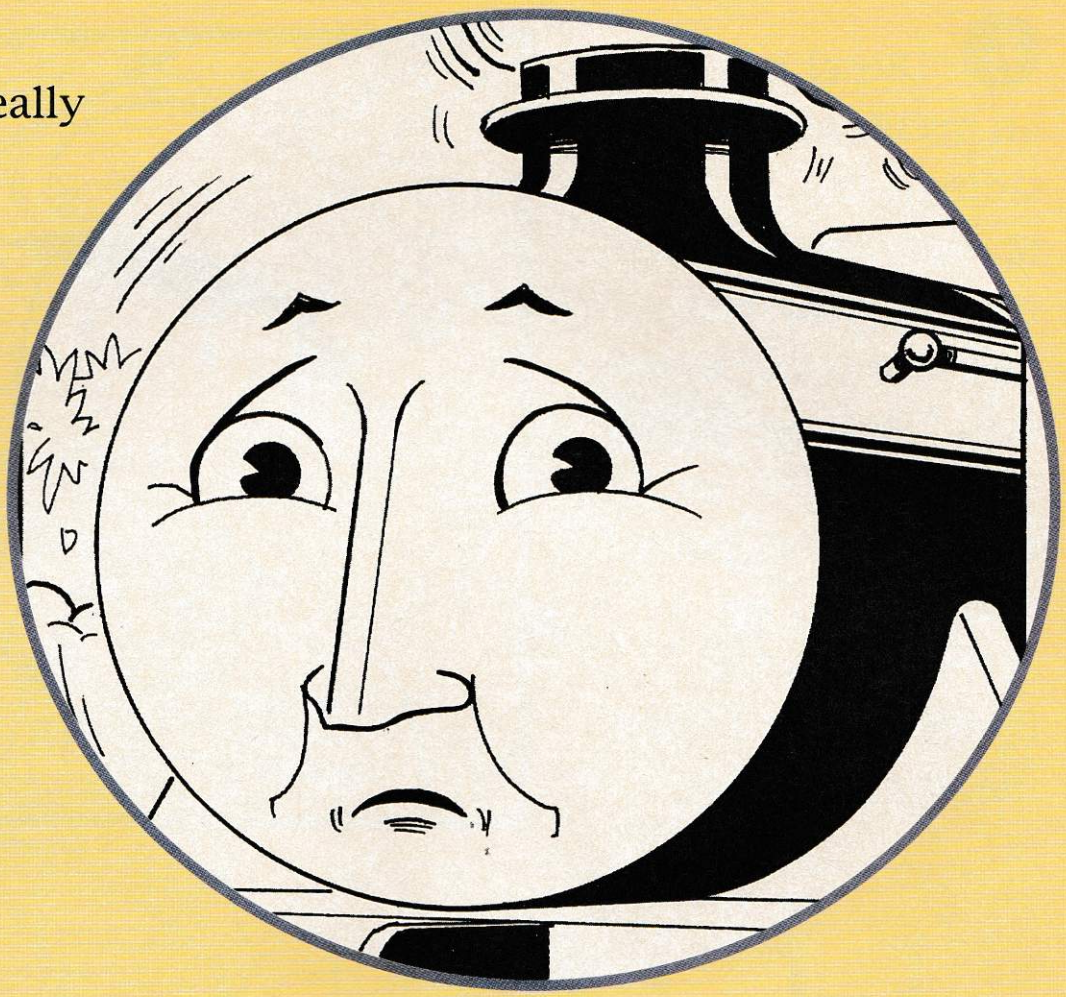
Henry and Diesel

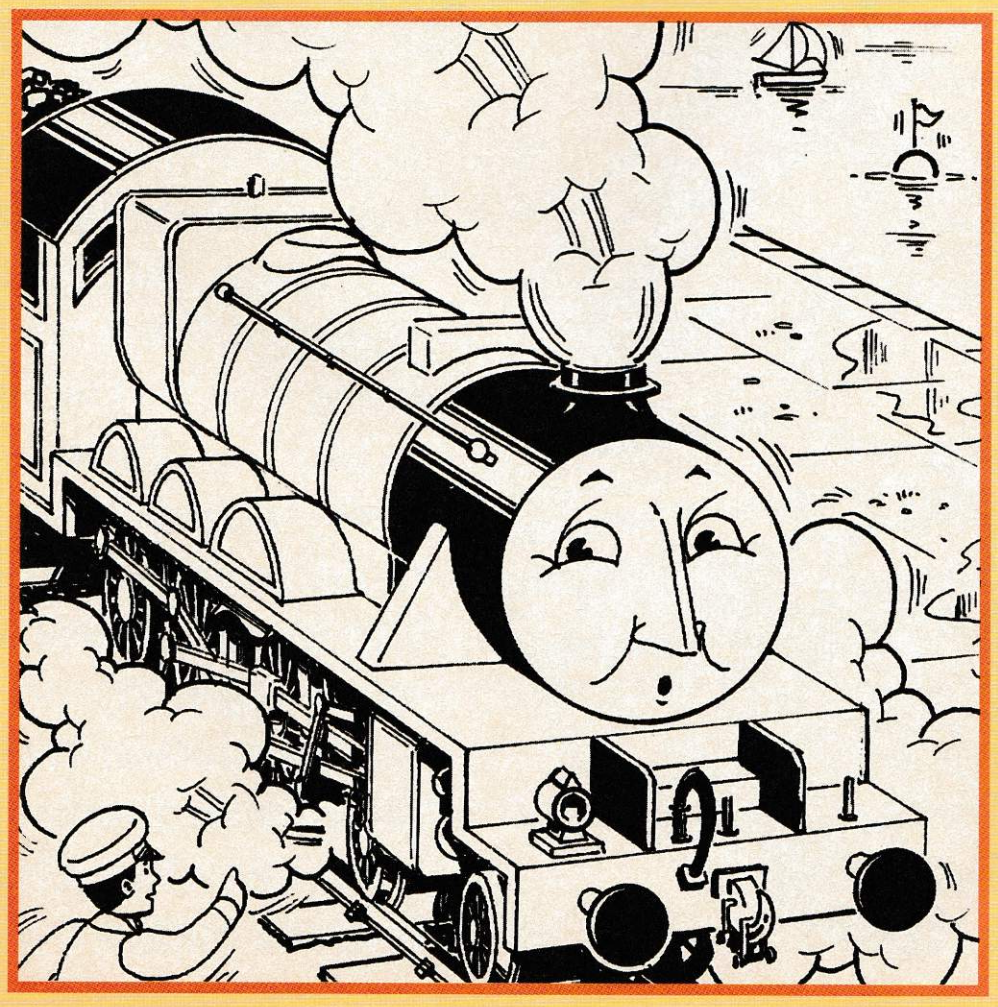


1 Henry is one of the oldest engines on the Fat Controller's railway. He used to look quite old-fashioned until he was given his new shape, of which he is very proud. Now he can run as speedily as any other engine on the railway!

One day, when Henry was taking some trucks to the Big Harbour, he met Diesel there. Diesel started to tease Henry about his age. "Why are you here, Creaky?" said Diesel, rudely. "I'm surprised that an engine as old as you is still working!"

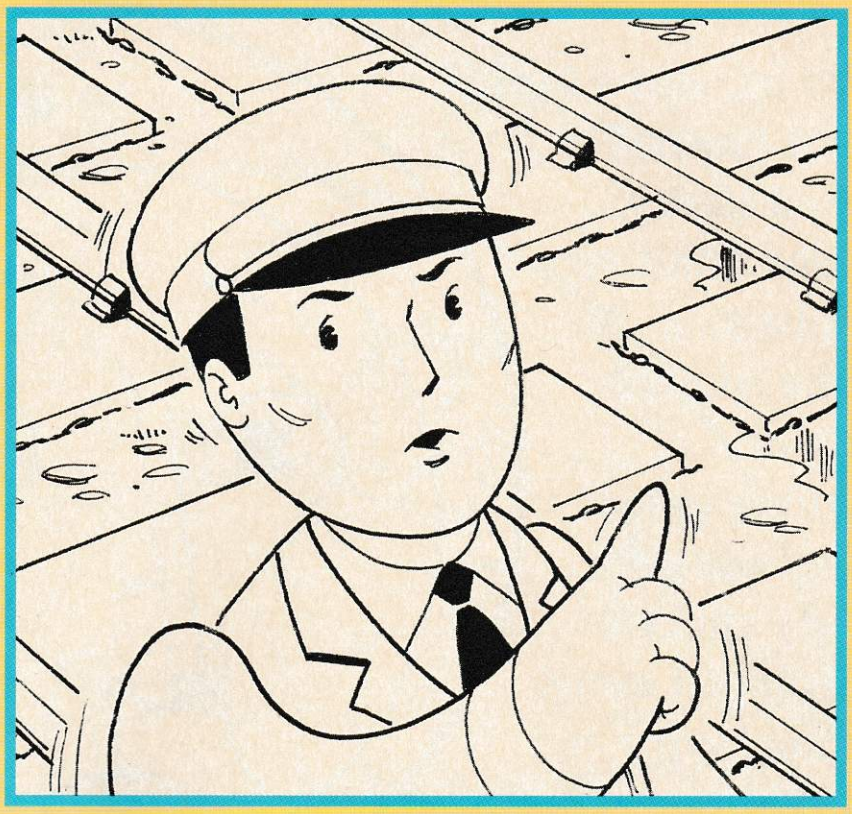
2 "I am still a Really Useful Engine!" replied Henry, crossly. "And you are just a...a..." But he couldn't think of anything to say. Diesel just gave an oily chuckle and slipped away, leaving Henry spluttering.

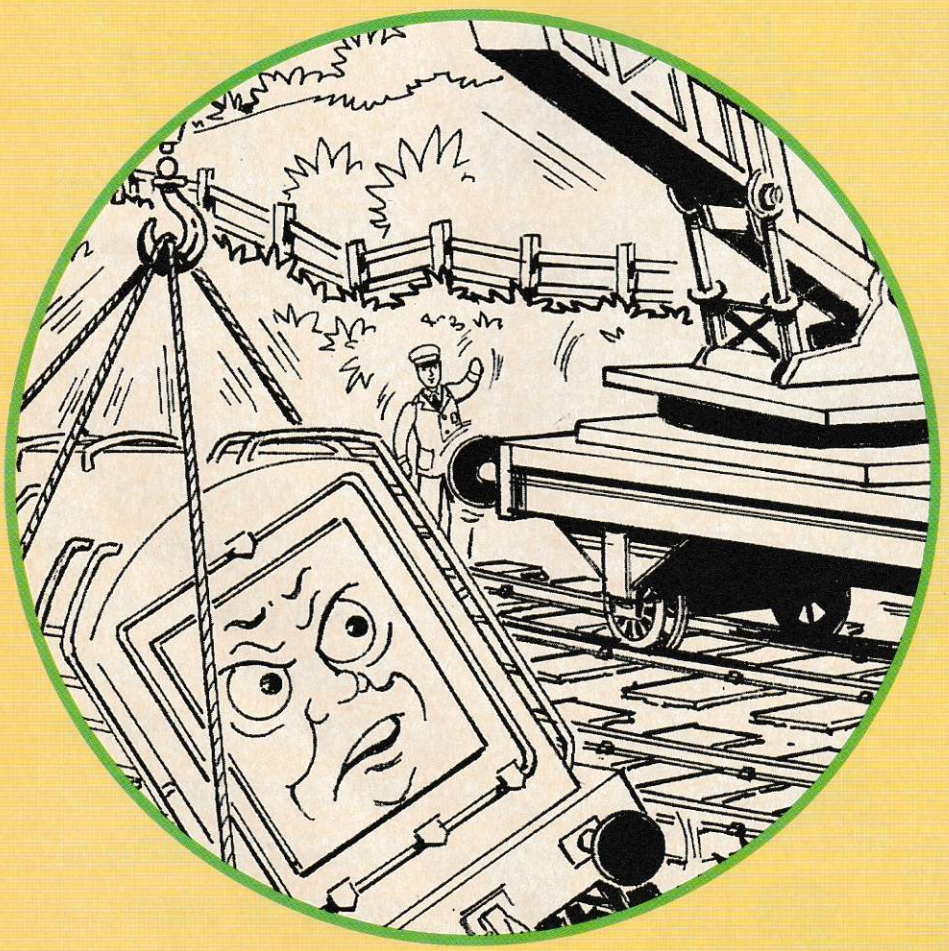




3 "Don't worry about Oily old Diesel," said Percy, who was nearby. But as Henry did his work later that day, he felt very cross. Later that afternoon, Henry saw the Harbour Station-master come running towards him.

4 "Diesel has had an accident at a siding," the Stationmaster told Henry. "You must take the crane to help him." At first, Henry didn't want to go, but in the end he pulled away. When he arrived with the crane, he saw Diesel looking very silly.



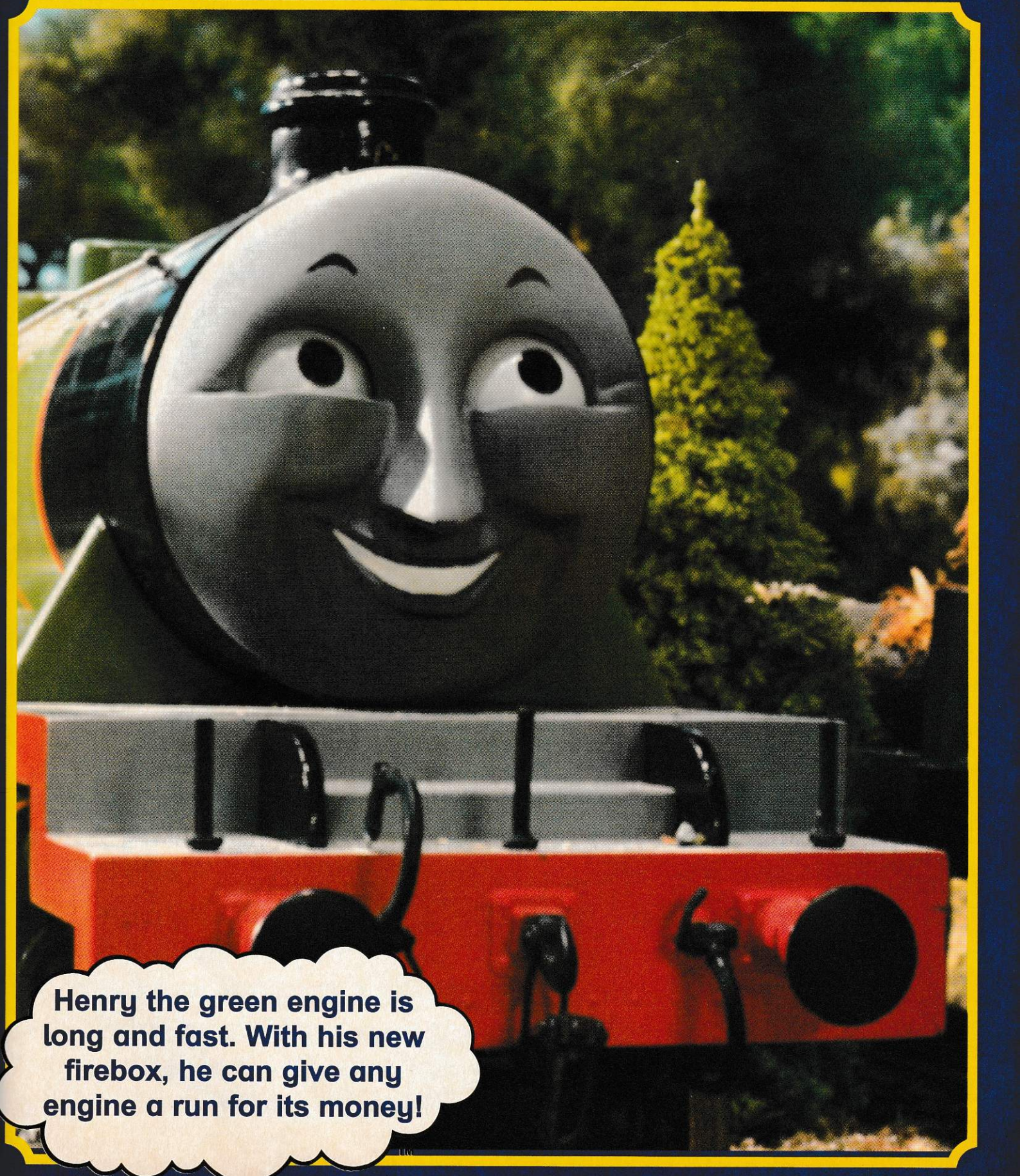


5 Diesel had gone so fas around a bend that he had swerved right off th rails and onto his side! "Oh, hello, Henry," Dies mumbled"What are you doing here?" "I've come to help you, Diesel," Henry smiled. "Even though you think I'm old and creaky!" Diesel just spluttered with embarrassment. Then Henry waited while the crane lifted Diesel back onto the rails.

6 As soon as Diesel began to move along the track again, Henry started to pull off with the crane. But the men hadn't locked the arm of the crane properly. Bang! It came down on top of Diesel. "Ouch!" the oily engine squealed. "That really hurt! You did that on purpose!" Henry hid a smile. Of course, Henry hadn't hurt Diesel on purpose. But at last Henry felt that naughty Diesel had been repaid for all the teasing that he made the other engines put up with!

The end

All abou

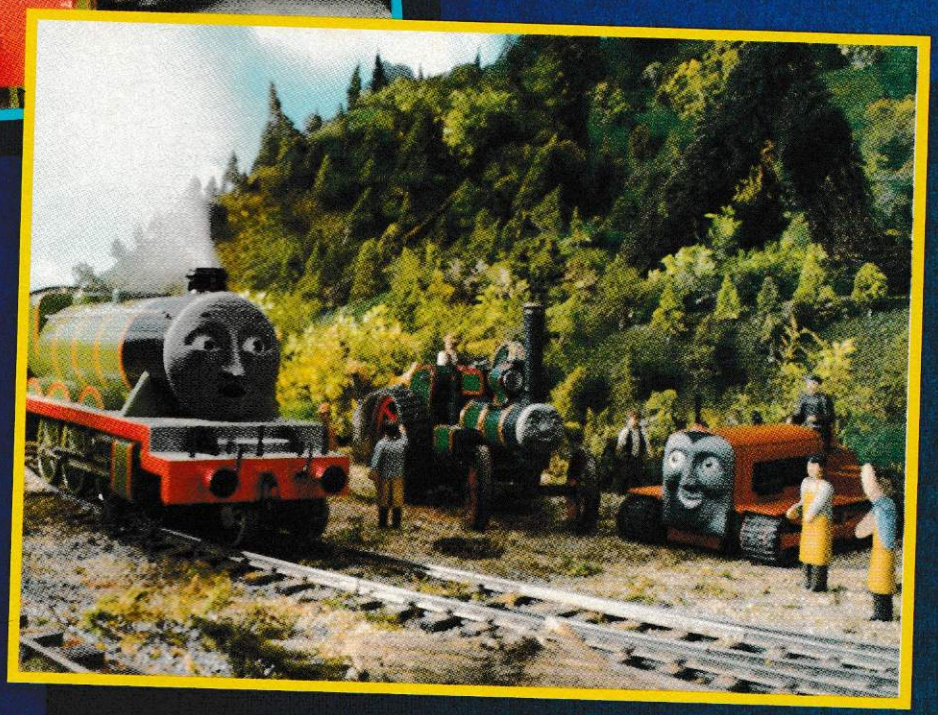


Henry the green engine is long and fast. With his new firebox, he can give any engine a run for its money!

t Henry!

Henry was once bricked up in a tunnel because he wouldn't go out in the rain!

Henry's favourite place is the forest. When it was damaged in a storm, his friends Trevor and Terence helped to plant new trees.



Win a model Henry!

Five lucky winners will win a splendid model Edward from the ERTL engine range! Just send a postcard, with your name, age and address to: Thomas/Edward model competition, Marvel Comics, Panini House, Coach and Horses Passage, The Pantiles, Tunbridge Wells, Kent TN2 5TZ. Closing date for entries: April 8th 1996. The first five names out of our postbag after the closing date will win their very own Edward!

The Easter egg hunt!

It was Easter weekend, and as a treat the teacher had organised an Easter Egg hunt! She had hidden fifty painted boiled eggs in the fields behind the old Schoolhouse. The children were divided into teams. The team that collected most boiled eggs would win a huge chocolate egg!

Stephen and Bridget had great fun. They found eggs in the grass, by the path and under the tree! As he flew past, Harold saw Bridget find two bright yellow eggs, hidden in a clump of daffodils!

In the end, though, it was Stephen's team that found the most eggs.

"Never mind, Bridget!" he teased his sister. "You don't like chocolate much anyway, do you?" Bridget just made a face at him.

When the children arrived at the

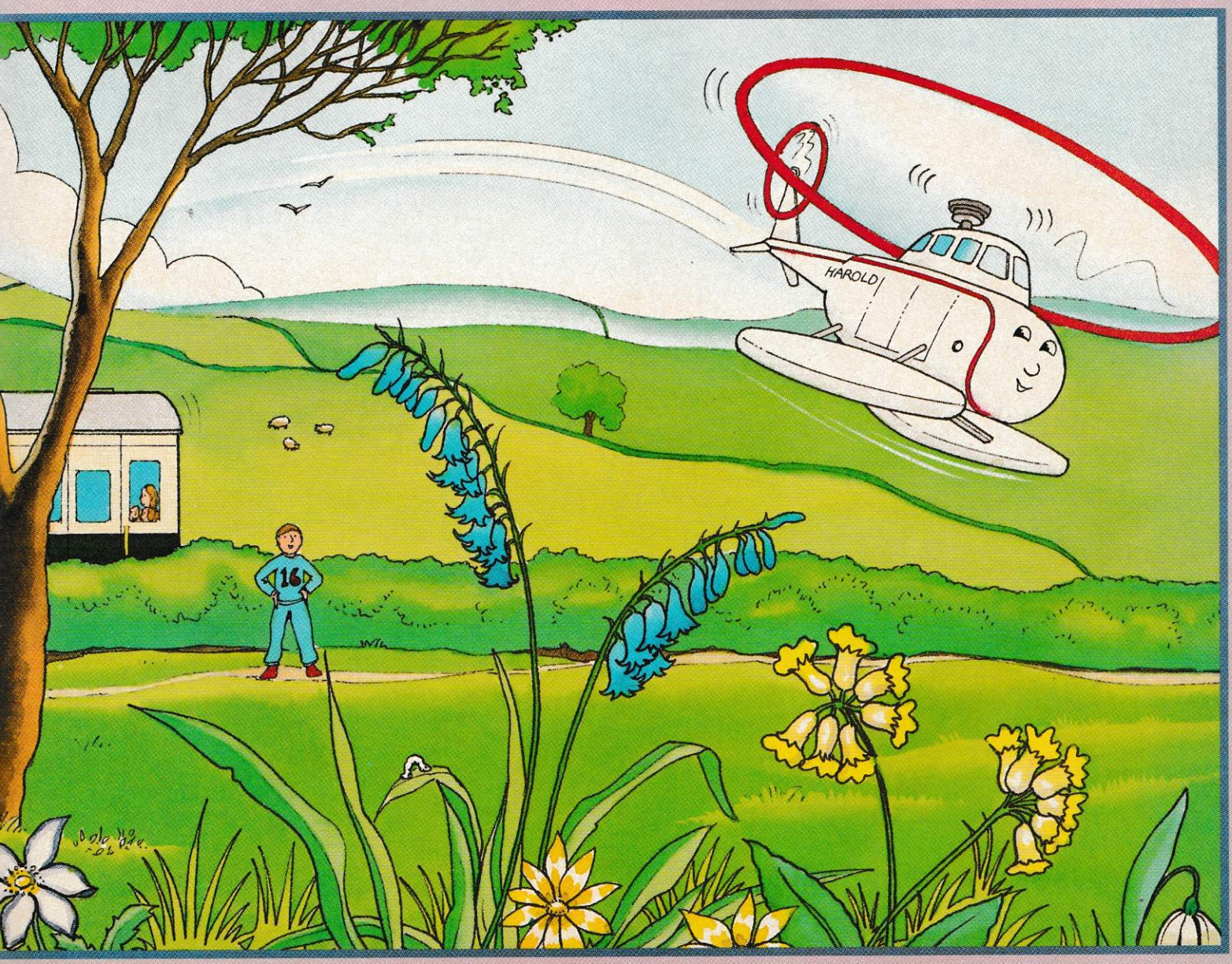
schoolhouse for tea, they found the teacher standing by the door. "Children," she said, sadly. "I have some bad news. The prize Easter egg has gone missing!" The children were shocked.

"I'm sure nobody would have taken it," Bridget said. "Maybe someone's put it somewhere for safekeeping." The children searched all over the schoolhouse, but they couldn't find the chocolate egg.

Feeling sad and puzzled, Stephen and Bridget walked back to Main Station to meet the Fat Controller. On the way, they saw James waiting at a signal. They told his driver all about the missing prize Easter egg.

"What a shame!" said the driver, shaking his head. "Where could it be?"

The signal changed and James had to move off. He was passing the schoolhouse garden when a bright flash of light shone right in his eyes! "Ouch!" said James, startled. For a few seconds, he could hardly see.



"Whatever was that?" his driver asked. "I think I can guess," said James, smiling. Then he told his driver his idea.

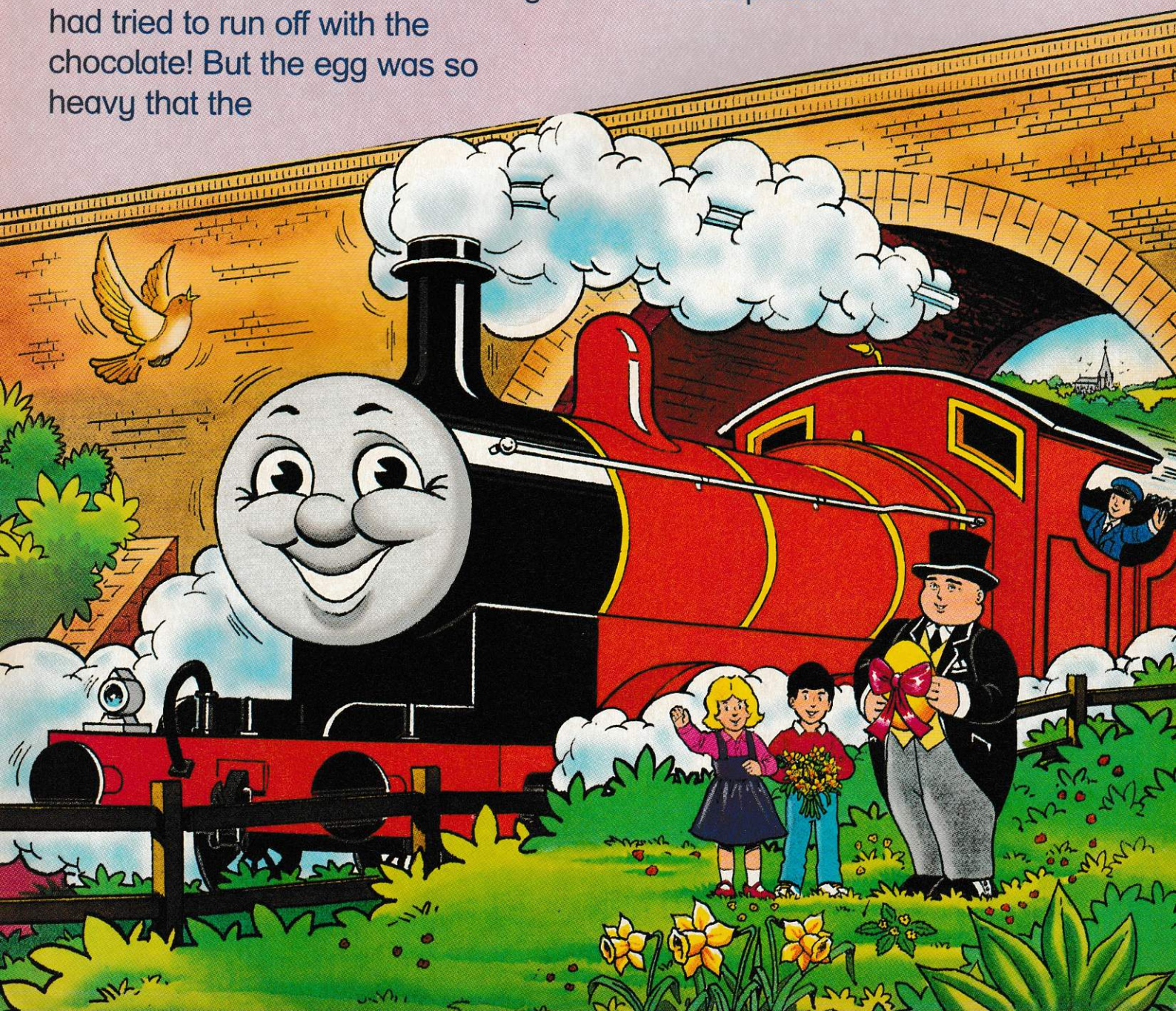
Later, when the smart red engine got back to Main Station, his driver spoke to Stephen and Bridget. "James has found the Easter egg!" he said. "Look in the schoolhouse garden and you'll find it there!"

Sure enough, the Easter egg, wrapped up in gold paper, was lying by a tree in the garden. From teeth marks on the ribbon, the children realised that the teacher's little dog had tried to run off with the chocolate! But the egg was so heavy that the naughty pup hadn't got very far. Apart from the ribbon, the prize wasn't damaged at all.

"Well done, James!" said the Fat Controller, later. "How did you know where the Easter egg was?"

"It was easy," said James, proudly. "When I went past the teacher's garden, something bright shone in my eyes. Easter eggs are wrapped up in shiny foil so I guessed that sunlight was glinting off the gold foil!"

"You're the *real* winner in our Easter Egg Hunt, James," laughed Bridget and Stephen.



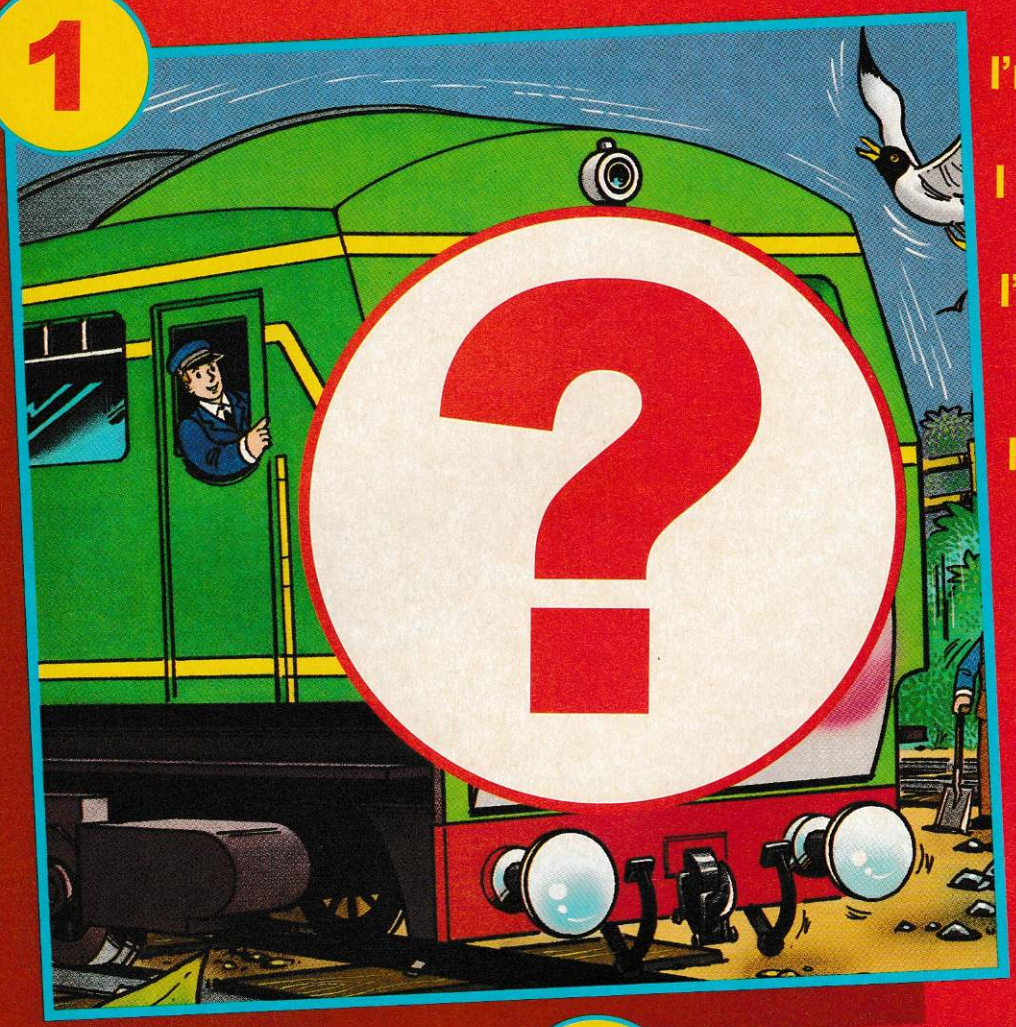
Dot to dot!

Where is the Vicar standing? Join the dots to find out!

When you have finished colour this page!

Guess who?

1



I'm a lady engine and I'm
very highly sprung!
I don't like pulling trucks
at all, it really isn't fun!
I'm proud to carry
passengers in snow,
sunshine or shower.
Here's one more clue -
my name's the same
as a garden flower!

Guess who?

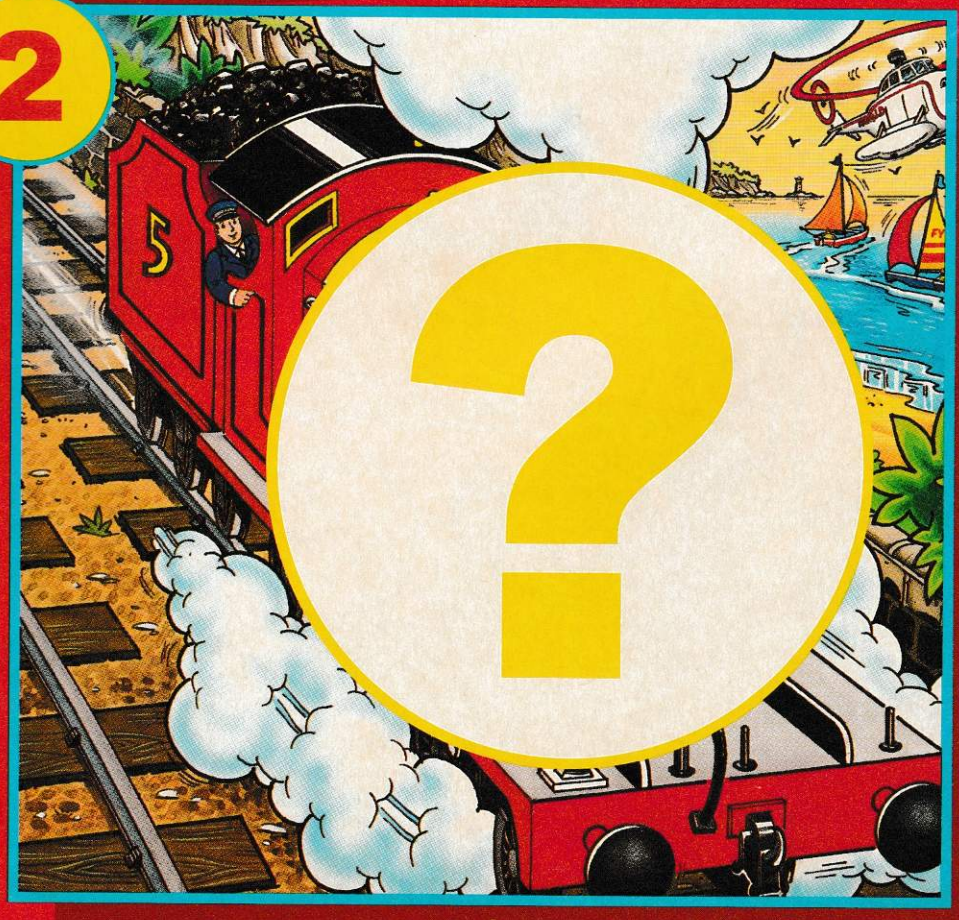
D A I S Y

2

Here's a clue to help
you
guess my name:
My coat of paint's the
smartest in the shed!
Or so I think and surely
you'll agree,
For after all, no other
engine's red!

Guess who?

J A M E S



3

As the boss of the railway, I'm often quite stern
But I know that my engines will listen and learn
When they misbehave and I give them a scold.
And most of the time, they are all good as gold!

Guess who?

THE FAT CONTROLLER

4

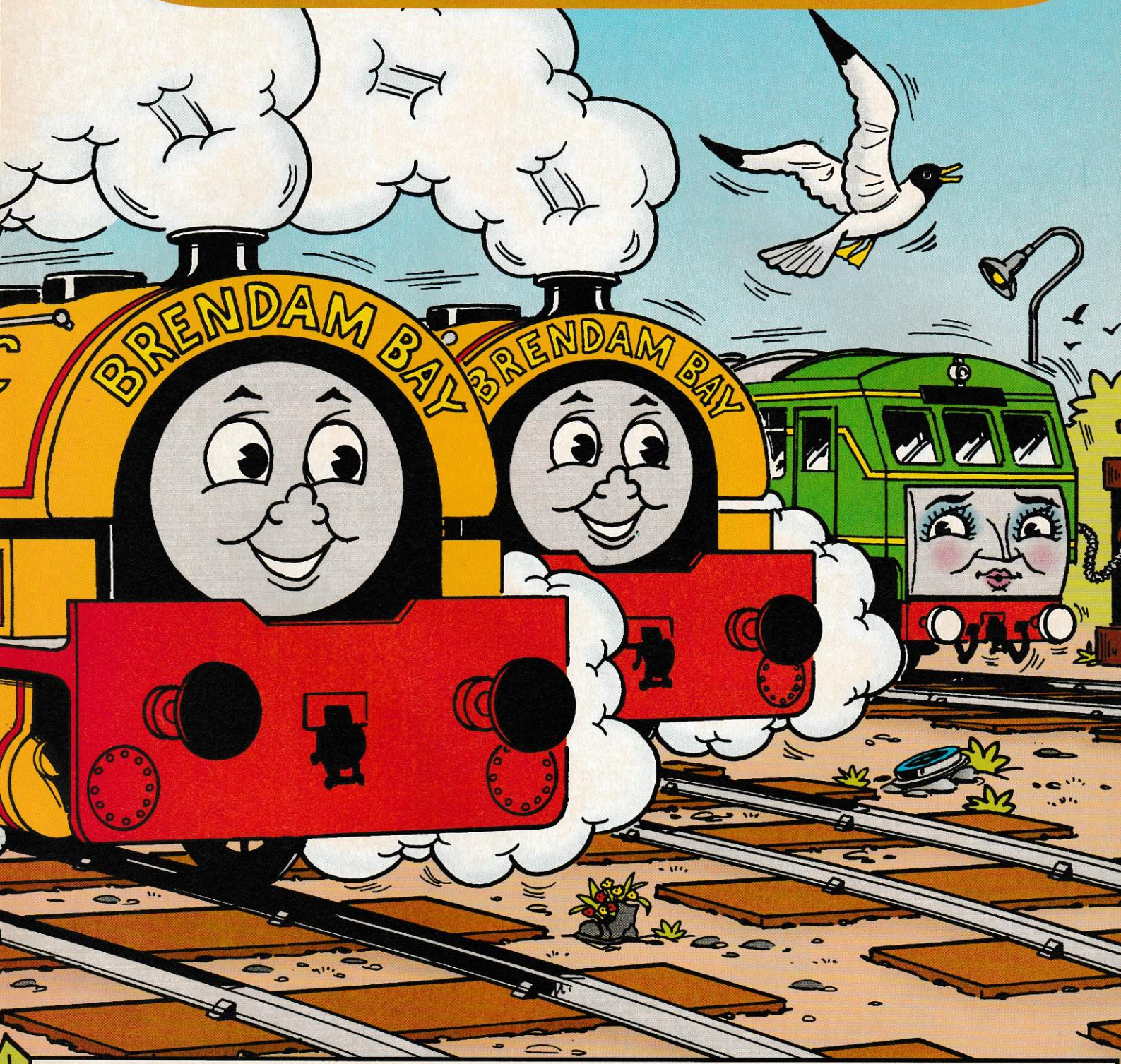
I love to be useful and work really hard!
I'm proud of my branch line and help in the yard.
My number is one and my paint is bright blue...
Can you guess who I am with the help of these clues?

Guess who?

THOMAS

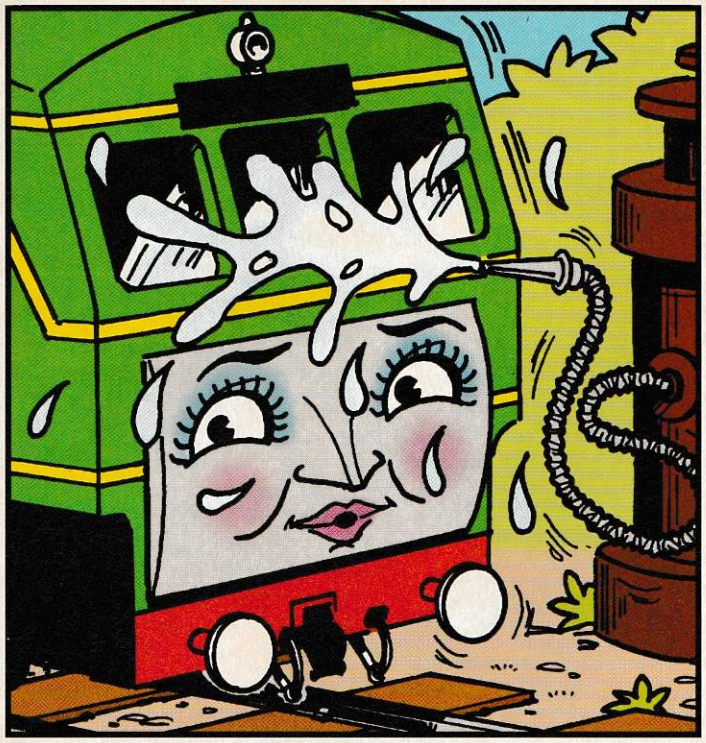
storytime storytime

Work and play!

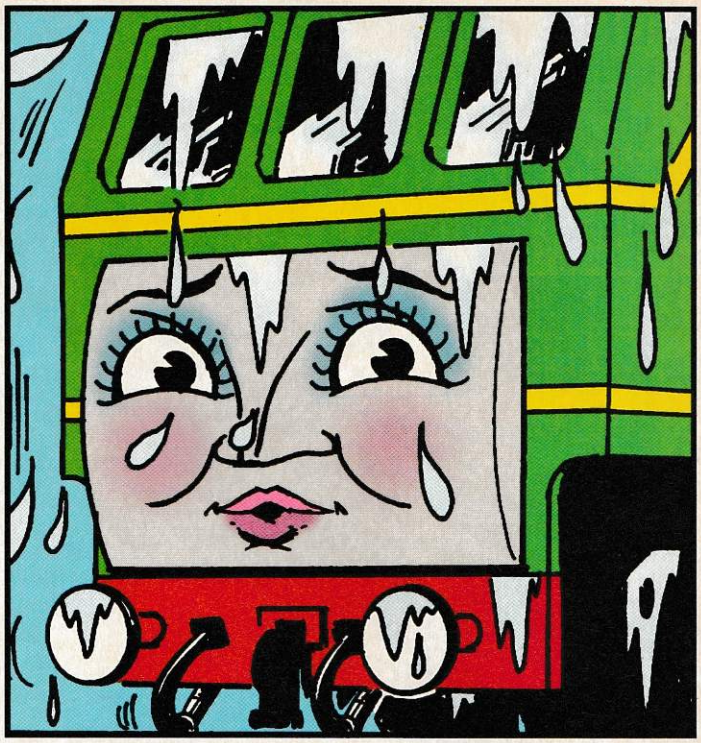


1. Bill and Ben are Really Useful Saddle-tank twins, carrying china clay from the pits at Brendam Bay. But they like to have fun and, sometimes, get up to mischief.

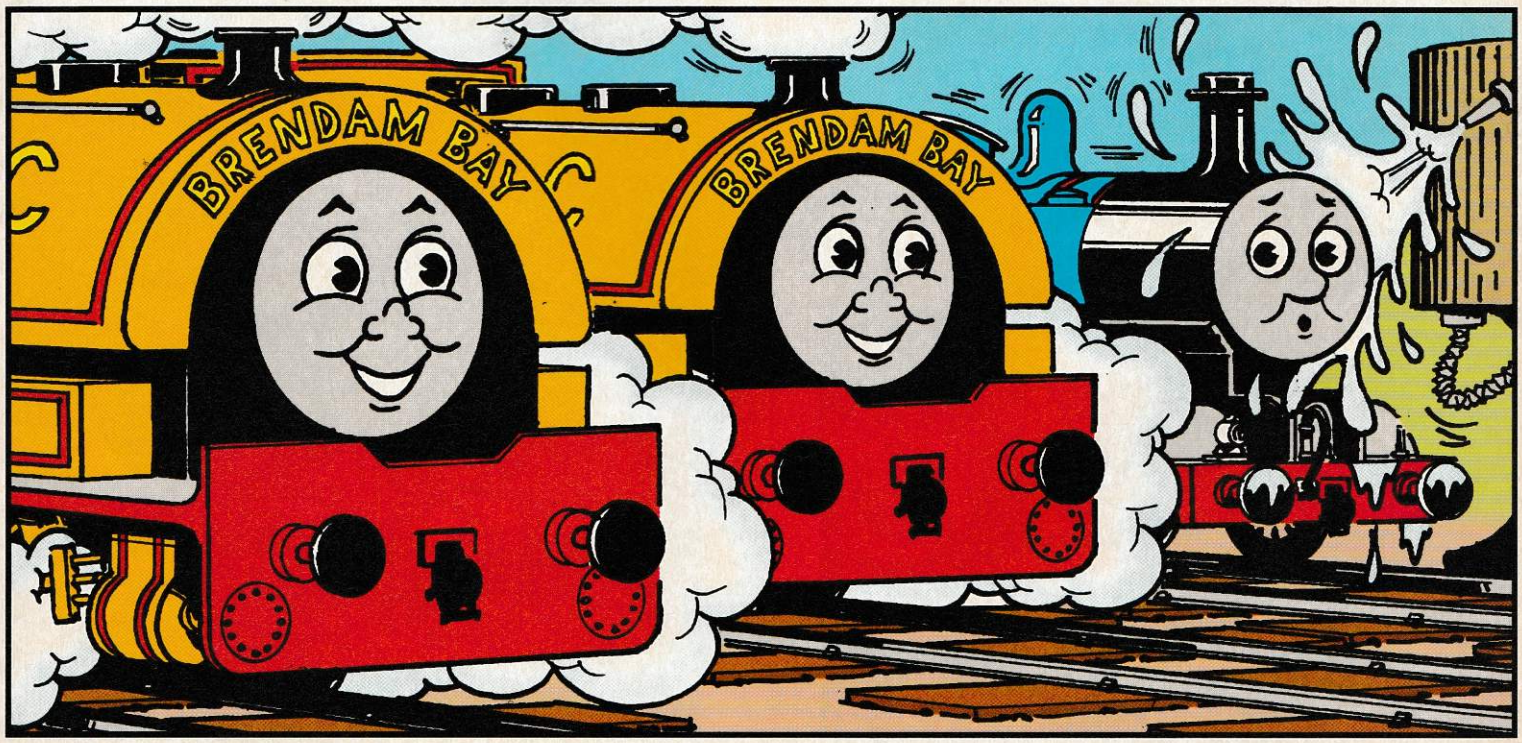
2. One day, they annoyed some other engines. As they returned to the Main Station yard, the twins saw Daisy being filled with diesel oil. They both crept up to her.



3. "Don't stand around!" called Bill. "It's lazy, Daisy!" teased Ben. Daisy was so startled, she rocked on the rails and spilled oil from the fuel pipe all over herself.

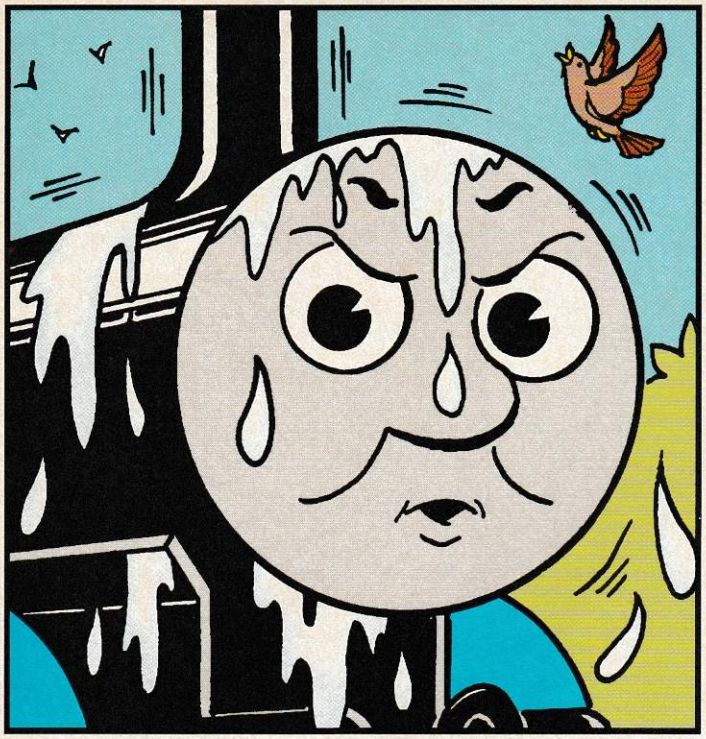


4. "Just look at me!" she cried. "I'll have to be hosed down!" Daisy was so upset that Bill and Ben felt sorry. "We only meant to make you jump, not get you soaked!" they called.

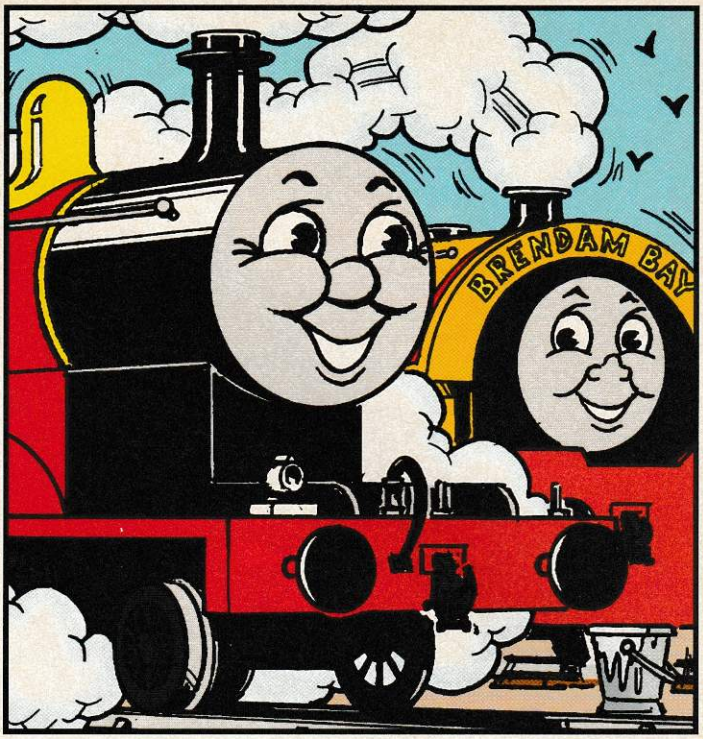


5. "It's time you learnt to behave!" snapped Daisy. "We were only playing about, otherwise work can be dull!" the twins replied. Next, they saw Thomas drinking at the water tower.

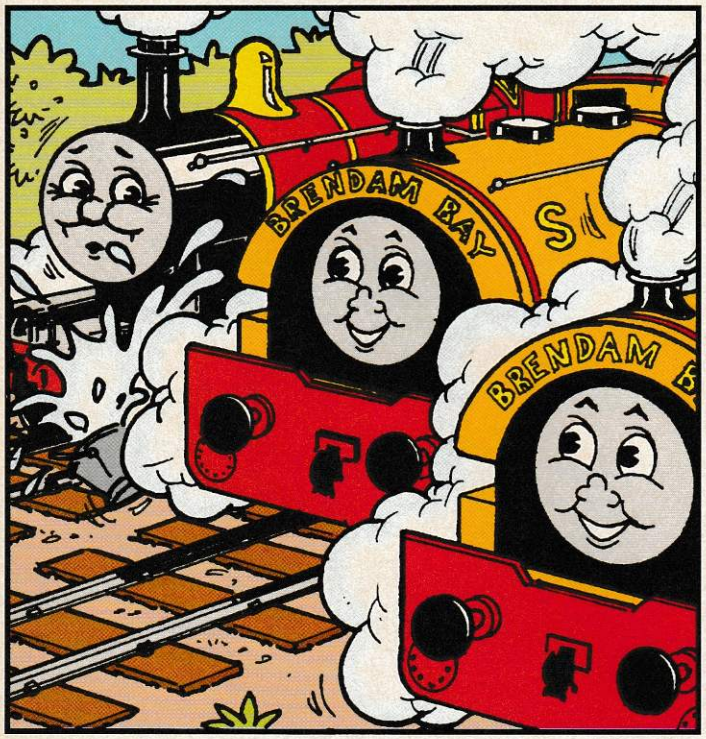
6. Bill and Ben rolled up behind Thomas and whistled loudly. "Smoke and fire!" gasped Thomas. "I nearly jumped right off the rails!" Now water gushed from the supply pipe.



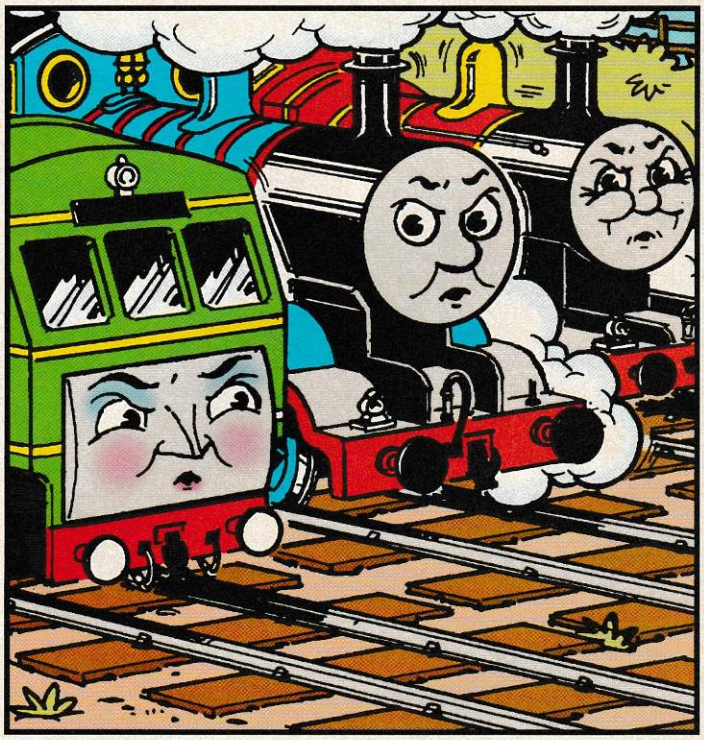
7. It splashed all over Thomas. He was dripping from his buffers to his coal bunker. "Very funny!" hissed Thomas. "We thought so!" grinned Bill and Ben as they steamed away.



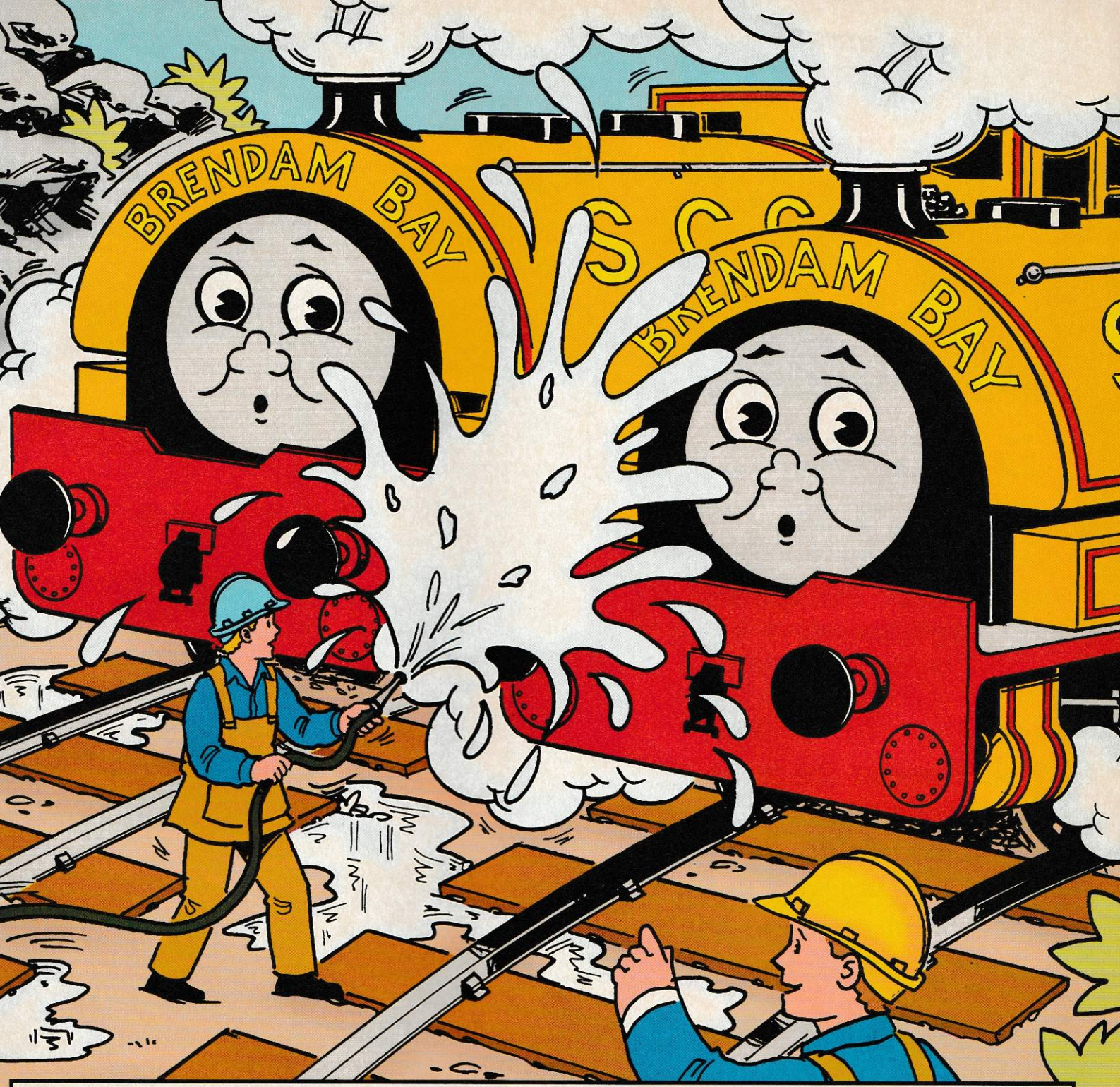
8. Next they spotted James. His red paintwork sparkled. "I've just been washed and polished," he said. As he spoke, Bill spied a bucket of dirty water near the track.



9. "Well, how do I look?" called James, proudly. Bill rushed forward and playfully knocked over the bucket. Dirty water showered over James from his whistle to his wheels.

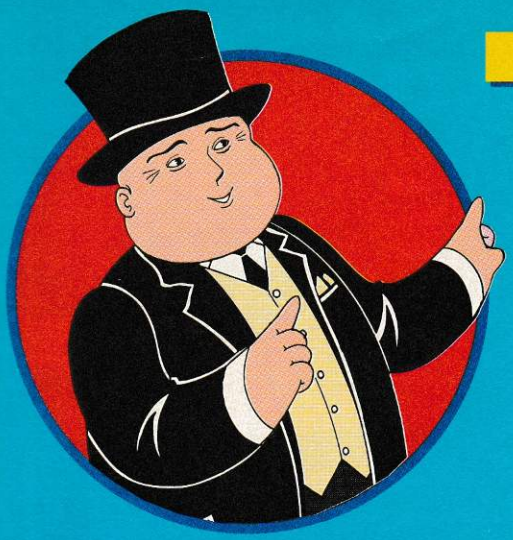


10. James's face turned red with anger. "You look cross to us!" smiled Ben, as he and Bill sped away. "Their games have got to stop!" James told Daisy and Thomas.



11. Bill and Ben were having fun. "Who shall we startle next?" they chuckled. Luckily, at that point the Fat Controller sent them back to Brendam Bay. When they arrived, with some empty trucks, Bill and Ben saw workmen washing china clay from the ground with a very powerful hose. The twins stopped sharply, on purpose. It made their trucks bump about.

12. "Just watch the workmen jump!" Bill and Ben laughed. But as one man spun round in surprise, he pointed the hose at the twins. A huge jet of water squirted all over them! "That startled us!" they spluttered. For weeks afterwards, the twins were on best behaviour. "Work isn't so dull without playing games," sighed Bill. "As long as it's dry!" agreed Ben.



The m

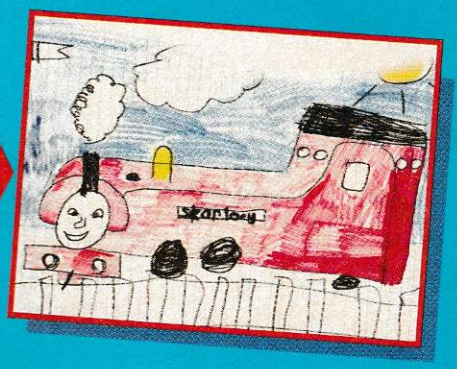
Please send your letters, pictures and drawings to Mail Train, Thomas, Marvel Comics, Panini House, Coach and Horses Passage, Tunbridge Wells, Kent TN2 5TZ.

Star Letter

Dear Fat Controller,
Do my favourite engines, Donald and Douglas, like spiders? My grandma is scared of them!
Love from Dane Gregory, aged 3

When I asked the twins if they were afraid of spiders, they said "Och, we like the wee things!". However, I noticed Diesel went quiet, so I'm not sure what he thinks!

Hello, Skarloey! Thank you to Nicki Haveron, aged 6, for this lovely picture!

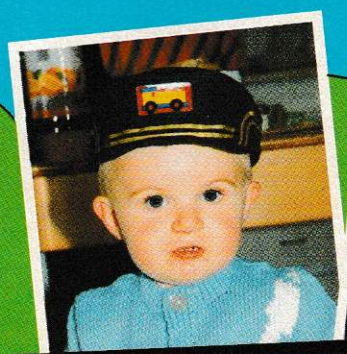


This happy picture of Thomas is from Fiona Woodward, aged 4!

The sender of any letter that is printed as our STAR LETTER will win a Thomas remote control model!

Happy Birthday

to Thomas Balson, aged 5
Christopher Smallpiece, aged 6,
Jake Silvers, aged 4,
and belated wishes to
George and Thomas Wilmer
and
Mark Houlihan.



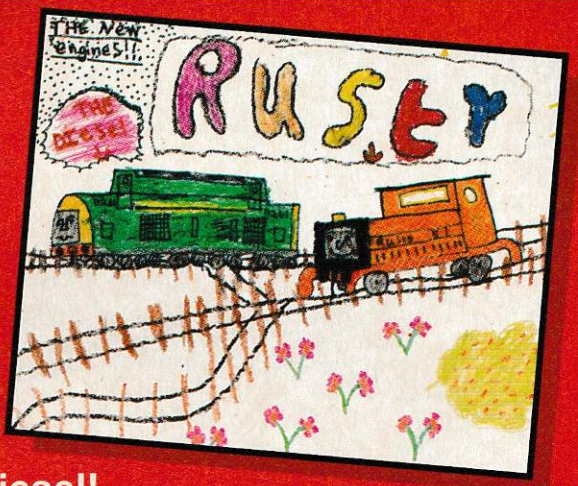
James Carr almost aged 2!

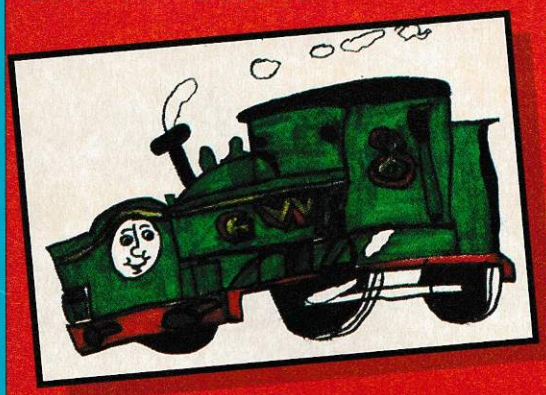
Kit Cooney from Ormskirk

ail train!

Anyone who has a drawing printed on this page will win a special **Thomas Changing Picture Book.**

Lots of thanks to **Anthony Sheridan, aged 8,** for this colourful drawing of Rusty and 199 Diesel!





Peep! Peep! says Duck in this smashing drawing by **Joe Dawson, aged 5!**

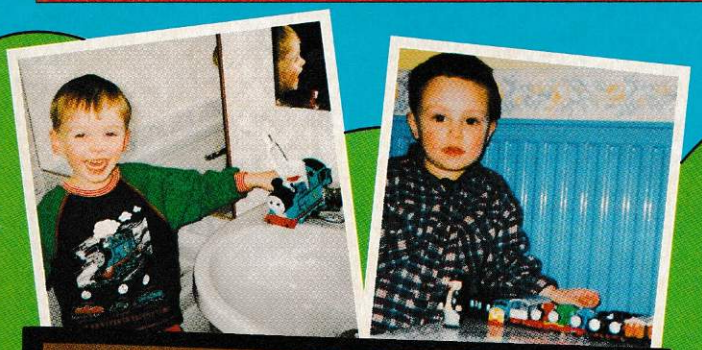
Percy's Jokes

Have you got a favourite joke or funny story? Why not send it to Percy!

What did the banana say to the engine?
Nothing - bananas can't talk!
Richard Heard, aged 4

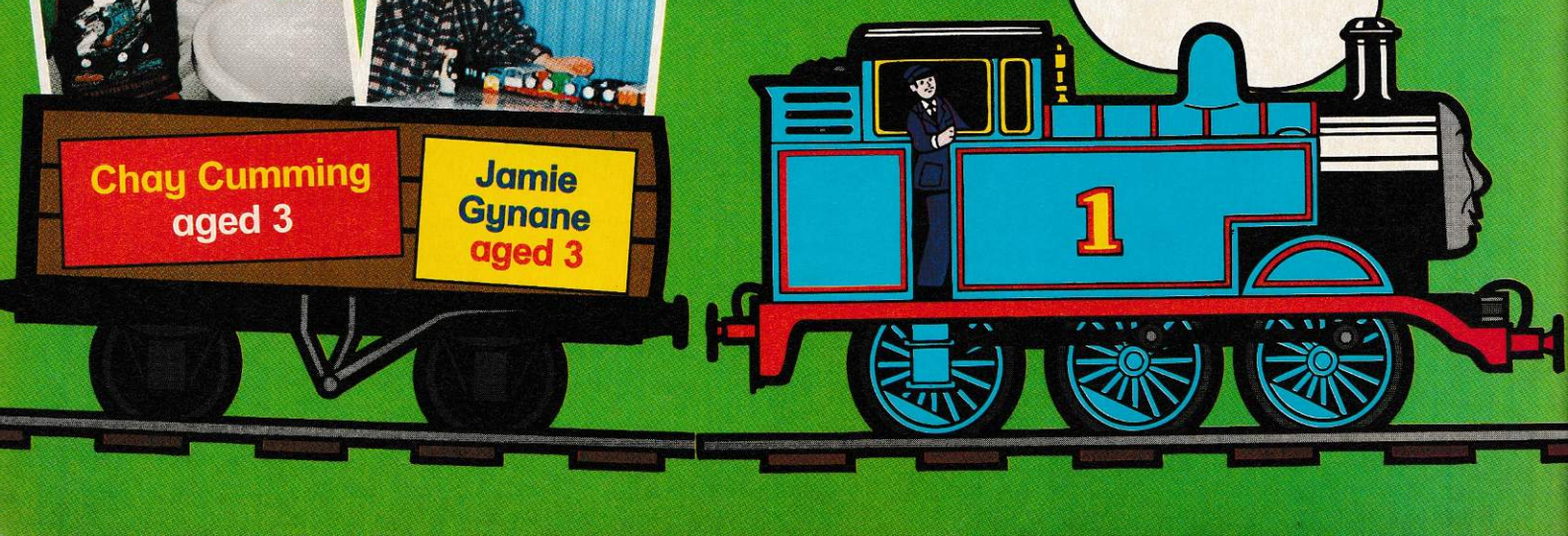
What vegetable can play snooker?
A cue-cumber!
Sarah Wilson, aged 5

Why did the girl throw the watch out the window?
Because she wanted to see time fly!
Tom Chandler, aged 4



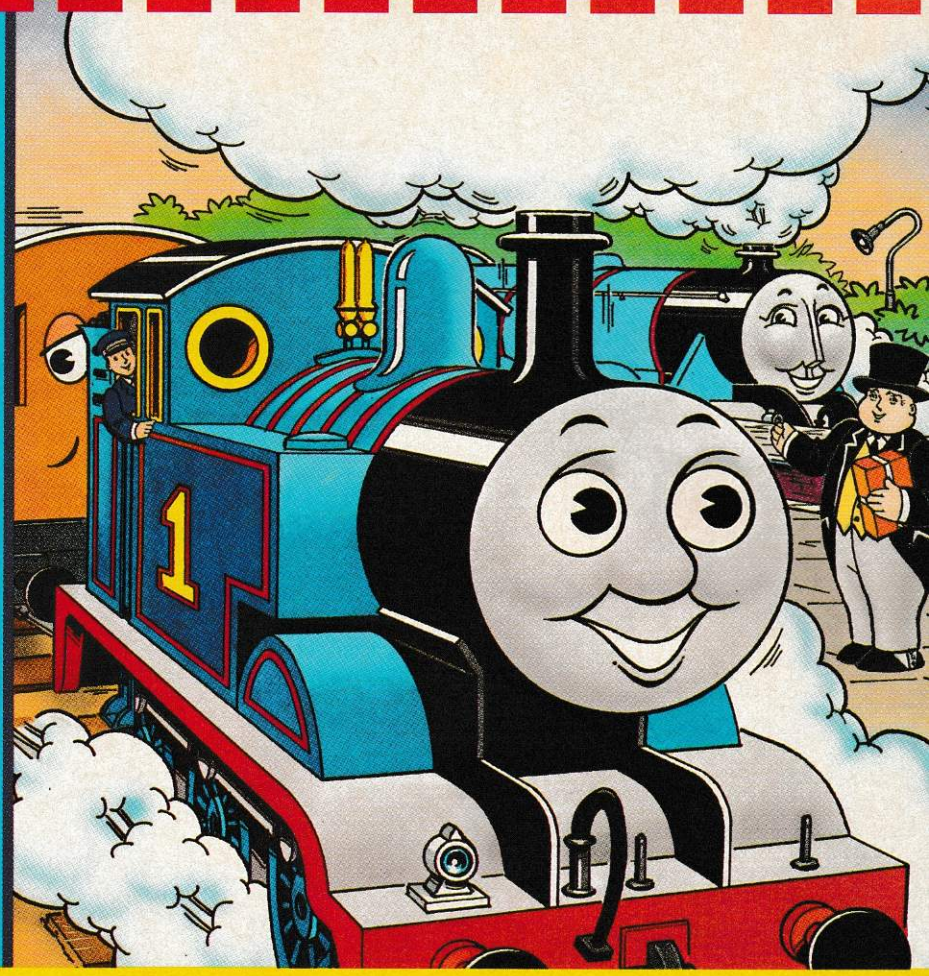
Chay Cumming aged 3

Jamie Gynane aged 3



Great news for Thomas fans!

The Thomas the Tank Engine & Friends Club has just been set up. New members are sent a starter pack which includes an activity book, badges, stickers and a super surprise gift! Throughout the year, members receive a copy of the Thomas Express and more pages of activities and games. For telephone memberships or more information, call the 24 hour 'Thomas Club Line' on 0541 542542.



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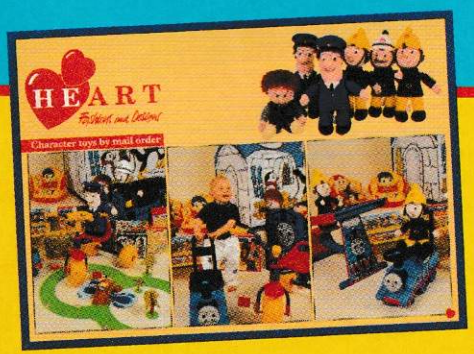
15 lucky readers will win a fabulous Thomas the Tank Engine play tent in this issue's competition! These great Dekkertoys tents will bring you hours of playtime fun, both in and out of doors! For your chance to win, just answer this easy-peasy question:

If Edward is engine number 2, and Henry is engine number 3, which engine is number 4?

Put your answer on a postcard along with your name, age and address. Then send it to:Thomas Playhouse Competition, Heart Fashions and Designs, 37a High Street, Walsall Wood, West Midlands, WS9 9LR. All entries must be received by 23 April 1996.



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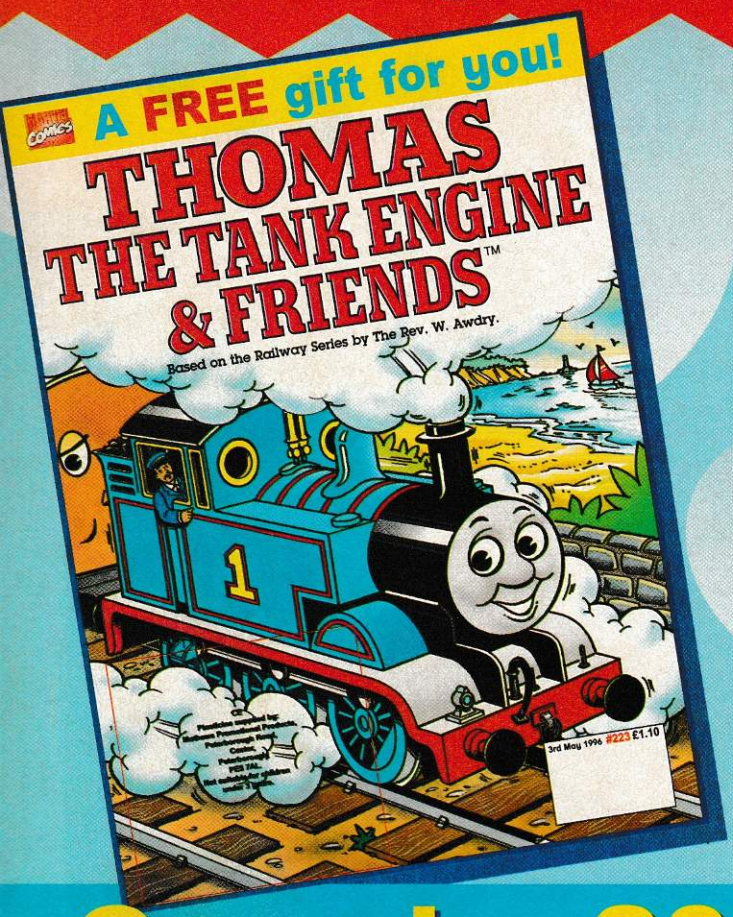

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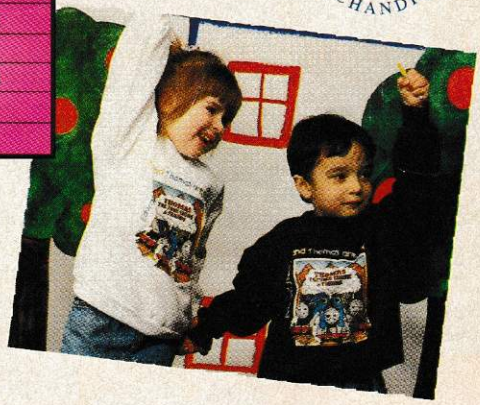

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